



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: January 23, 2014

To: Chair Elizabeth Glidden and Vice Chair Alondra Cano

Referral to: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: Presentation by League of Minnesota Cities: State and Local Fiscal relationship; Transportation Funding; Local Funding Source and Mandates

Recommendation: Receive and File

Department Information

Prepared by: Gene Ranieri

Approved by: _____

Presenters in Committee: League of Minnesota Cities: Gary Carlson; Anne Finn and Ann Lindstrom

Supporting Information

Background. The League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) was founded in 1913 by a special law passed by the Minnesota Legislature. LMC was initially a part of the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota. In 1974, the League became an independent organization. Today, the League's membership includes cities and their elected and appointed officials, as well as a number of special municipal districts and townships.

The League serves its more than 800 member cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services.

Mission. The League of Minnesota Cities promotes excellence in local government through effective advocacy, expert analysis, and trusted guidance for all Minnesota cities.

Vision. We envision a future for Minnesota and the League where: All cities are thriving, taking advantage of new opportunities, and successfully meeting ongoing challenges. The League continues to provide premier service to its members, and is recognized as the trusted, authoritative, and unified voice on issues affecting cities.

Committee Presentation. The discussion with the League of Minnesota Cities will focus on three issue areas – state/local fiscal relationship, transportation funding and mandate relief.

The state/local fiscal relationship presentation will be led by Gary Carlson LMC's Director of Government Relations. Mr. Carlson will briefly trace the history of the relationship and discuss the impact of the state's revenue condition on local government revenues and spending limitations.

Anne Finn will review the prospects for a state funded transportation program as well as a local finance mechanism. The LMC has championed the passage of legislation that would permit cities to establish street utilities. The bill could be subject to a vote in 2014.

Local governments have continually raised the issue of unfunded services or procedures mandated by the state. During most sessions lists of mandates are compiled by LMC and county organizations. The legislature has occasionally repealed a mandate but has modified some of them.

In 2014, LMC will advocate for a modification in the requirements regarding the publication of official meeting proceedings and similar documents. Ann Lindstrom will discuss the LMC's publication changes.